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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/538,908

06/14/2005

Jurgen Osterlanger

INA-1

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20311 7590 02/19/2010

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP  
475 PARK AVENUE SOUTH  
15TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10016

EXAMINER

WAITS, ALAN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3656

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/19/2010

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

info@lmiplaw.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/538,908	<b>Applicant(s)</b> OSTERLANGER, JURGEN	
	<b>Examiner</b> ALAN B. WAITS	<b>Art Unit</b> 3656	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 November 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                    | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The claims as amended recite the limitation “a ring arranged axially between the two housing parts so as to radially overlap the outer ring at one axial end part”. This limitation is not described in the specification. If the limitation is present in the drawings, it is unclear which element of the drawing fits this description since no element is both “arranged axially between the two housing parts” and “radially overlap the outer ring at one axial end”.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatewaki et al US 2002/0148672 in view of Saruwatari et al US 2002/0096389.

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Tatewaki discloses a similar device comprising:

**Re clm 1**

- A rolling-body screw mechanism (B, fig 5) having an axis of rotation
- A housing divided into two housing parts (233 and 231, respectively, fig 5) transversely to the axis of rotation
- A hollow rotor (102, fig 2) mounted on a spindle nut (103, fig 2)
- A threaded spindle (101b, fig 2)
- The spindle nut being drive-connected to the rotor through the hub (103 is connected to 102, fig 2)
- A multi-row angular ball bearing ([0080], last sentence) rotatably mounting the rolling-body screw mechanism in only one housing part of the housing (fig 2)
- The angular ball bearing having an outer ring (outside of 113, fig 2) seated in a housing bore (slot that 113 fits into 233, fig 5) of the one housing part
- A ring (ring on left side of 243 that extends above 243 into 233, fig 7) arranged axially between the two housing parts so as to radially overlap the outer ring at one axial end side
- The angular ball bearing carrying the spindle nut and the hollow rotor in a cantilevered manner in the one housing part (fig 2)

Although Tatewaki does indeed disclose:

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- Ball grooves (groove on inner ring where ball 108 sits, fig 2) of the angular ball bearing (113, fig 2) are formed on an outer circumference of the spindle nut (103, fig 2)

he does not disclose:

- Ball grooves (groove on inner ring where ball 108 sits, fig 2) of the angular ball bearing (113, fig 2) being formed directly on an outer circumference of the spindle nut (103, fig 2)

Saruwatari teaches:

- Ball grooves (of bearing 14, fig 2) of the ball bearing (14, fig 2) being formed directly on an outer circumference of the spindle nut (5, fig 2)

for the purpose of reducing the number of parts required for assembly and thus reducing the cost of the device.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Tatewaki and provide:

- Ball grooves of the angular ball bearing being formed directly on an outer circumference of the spindle nut

for the purpose of reducing the number of parts required for assembly and thus reducing the cost of the device.

Tatewaki further discloses:

**Re clm 4**

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- The rolling mounting means is arranged axially within a construction space occupied by the spindle nut (rolling mounting means 113 is in the same construction space as nut 103, fig 2)

**Re clm 5**

- The rotor (102, fig 2) is arranged axially within a construction space (region that the nut occupies, fig 2) occupied by the spindle nut (103, fig 2)

3. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatewaki et al US 2002/0148672 in view of Saruwatari et al US 2002/0096389 as applied to claims 1 and 4 above, and further in view of R. E. Osborne USP 2964967.

Tatewaki in view of Saruwatari discloses all the claimed subject matter as described above.

**Re clm 6 and 7**

Although Tatewaki discloses the rolling-body screw mechanism has a ball screw mechanism (103, fig 2) with a deflection ([0081]) for balls of the ball screw mechanism, he does not explicitly disclose the rolling-body screw mechanism is a ball screw mechanism with an outer deflection for balls of the ball screw mechanism.

Osborne teaches the rolling-body screw mechanism (16, fig 1) has a ball screw mechanism with an outer deflection (20, fig 1) for balls (22, fig 1) of the ball screw mechanism for the purpose of providing for an improved means for circulating the balls in the ball nut.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Tatewaki and provide the rolling-body screw

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mechanism is a ball screw mechanism with an outer deflection for balls of the ball screw mechanism, as taught by Osborne, for the purpose of providing for an improved means for circulating the balls in the ball nut.

Tatewaki in view of Osborne further disclose:

**Re clm 7**

- The spindle nut (103, fig 2; Tatewaki) is provided, in a region radially between the threaded spindle (101b, fig 2; Tatewaki) and the angular ball bearing (113, fig 2; Tatewaki)
- A return bore (the way tube 20 connects to grooves 18, fig 1; Osborne) for balls of the ball screw mechanism

***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed 11/7/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that neither Tatewaki nor Saruwatari disclose such a ring as claimed. The examiner disagrees. See fig 7 of Tatewaki and the rejection above.

Applicant also argues that the rotor of Tatewaki is different from the claimed invention because the component serve different purposes. The examiner notes that Applicant is arguing limitations not in the claims. The rotor of Tatewaki meets all the limitations of the claims and therefore anticipates the claims. The examiner further notes that the spindle nut is drive-connected to the rotor.

***Conclusion***

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALAN B. WAITS whose telephone number is (571)270-3664. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 5 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on 571-272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alan B Waits/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3656

/Richard WL Ridley/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3656